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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,929	09/12/2003	Kazuo Takeda	82478-0700	7311
21611	7590	03/23/2006	EXAMINER VO, TUYET THI	
SNELL & WILMER LLP 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			ART UNIT 2821	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,929	TAKEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuyet Vo	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-8 and 14-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/08/2006.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's arguments filed January 03, 2006 with amended claims 1 and 3-24 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive due to a new ground rejection against the claim invention as below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iida et al. (US Pat. 4,520,294), hereinafter Iida.

Iida discloses a metal halide lamp (Fig. 1), comprising:

a ceramic arc tube (1) that is composed of a main body (A, marked by examiner) and two narrow tube parts (B and C, marked by examiner) provided at respective ends of the main body; a pair of electrodes (2a, 2b) provided inside the main body (3); two feeders (a, b), each being connected at one end thereof to a different one of the electrode inside the main body (A), and extending through a different one of the narrow tube parts, so as to be external to the arc tube at another end (Figs. 9-12);

a starting wire (15) connected to an electrode winding (2b) and one (b) of the feeders (a, b), wherein the starting wire is in a vicinity an outer surface of the arc tube (Figs. 9 and 10); and

a circuit breaking/limiting unit (17), constructed on a current path of the starting wire (15), limits current on the path by cutting off the current to the starting wire (15) within a predetermined amount of time (col. 8, lines 14-22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida.

Iida discloses substantially the claim invention as noted above, in that, the amount of time for cutting current to the starting wire is also determined (col. 7, lines 1-19 and col. 8, lines 14-22). However, the predetermined of time required in the claim invention is different from Iida and can be modified by one of skill in the art for a particular application in order to improve lamp's performance. Such improvement is considered as a routine skill in the art.

5. Claims 3, 4, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of Larson et al. (US Pat. 4,179,640), hereinafter Larson.

Iida discloses substantially the claim invention as noted above except for the current breaking/limiting unit is a resistor/fuse ranging between 1K ohm to 1M ohm or a capacitor.

The missed features in Iida are fulfilled by Larson, in that, Larson discloses a discharge lamp (Figs. 1 and 4-8) having a starting wire (40) connected to one electrode (20) via a resistor with a very high impedance (50) or a capacitor (52) in order to limit a current flow into the starting wire (40) after the lamp is operated normally.

Even neither Iida nor Larson is fulfilled the requirement of resistor value as claimed invention, but one having ordinary skill in the art would make it as an option to select any

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desired value of resistor in order to enhance a certain value of current flowing through. Such implementation is considered as a routine skill in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 5-8 and 14-24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior fails to establish a circuit breaking element formed by a resistor arranging in a manner such that two terminals that each connect to a power supply path are provided at two different positions on a breaking element, a distance between the terminals being at least 4.5 mm as required in claims 5 and 14 or a conductive supporting part that supports a sleeve to encloses the arc tube and the starting wire, wherein the starting wire passes through the supporting part in an insulation manner as required in claim 22.

Correspondence

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

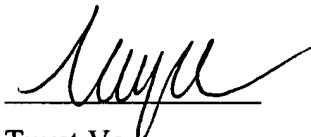
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyet Vo whose telephone number is 571 272 1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571 272 1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571 273 8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272 2800.

Information regarding the status of an application or status information for publicing/unpublicing applications may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at toll free 866-217-9197.



Tuyet Vo

Primary Examiner

March 16, 2006